

Discover Duxbury North Hill Country Club

Home to a nine-hole favorite...

By Aaron Carr, Sports Reporter

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It's a Friday in July and the sun is beaming down on the North Hill Country Club, home to the North Hill golf course.

Located at 29 Merry Avenue, the North Hill golf course is a 3,501-yard, par 36 nine-hole course.

Built on the former Merry Family farm, the North Hill golf course was designed by William F. Mitchell (a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects) and opened in 1962.

The Town of Duxbury bought the property in the late 1970's and saved the area – all 325 acres – from a developer who was going to put hundreds of houses up there.

The town thwarted those business plans and bought the property for \$750,000. The golf course currently sits on 56 of the 325 acres. "It's a pretty nice thing for the town to have a municipally owned golf course," said Cushing, Director of the Duxbury Recreation Department. "It's a nice place and a great asset for the town. It's pretty well received, and it's a nice place for recreation purposes."

Cushing adds that the nine-hole layout of the course is user-friendly.

"It doesn't take four or five hours to play," he said.

There is a new drainage system and new sand at the course. All 13 sand traps have been upgraded as well.

It's a scenic stroll around the greens but there are cart paths all over the area.

There are putting greens located near the clubhouse. Void of a traditional driving range, patrons who provide their own balls can still hammer shots from the tee boxes neighboring the putting greens.

"We've talked about expanding those facilities," Cushing said. "But that area is definitely still utilized."

For novice players, PGA Professionals Bill Allen and John Kan are available by appointment to help improve your game. The two gentlemen offer lessons and conduct programs at North Hill.

"We're here for the people, we're here for the town," Kan said.

Popularity spikes in the summertime, but May, September and October still have strong turnouts.

The area is also a favorable site for cross-country skiing and/or sledding. There is a steep hill at the third hole that has developed into a popular sledding spot.

There are also walking and biking trails in the area for non-golfers.



The view from the tee box on the first hole. Photo by Aaron Carr

Pro Shop and Clubhouse

Inside the office there is a pro shop where you can book tee times over the phone or in-person. You can also make reservations online. Golf items and paraphernalia are for sale.

Making my way through the building I instantly feel relaxed upon entering the clubhouse.

There's a trio of ceiling fans providing some relief on a hot July day, the radio is playing and the large TV behind the bar is tuned to the Golf Channel. I'm sure the commentary of Henrik Stenson's historic victory in the Open Championship a few weeks ago was heard booming throughout the building.

I make my way over to the table in the right hand corner to jot down some notes. I find a seat in the half booth and take out my notepad. A framed photo of Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer stares over my shoulder.

Scanning the room I notice a comfortable looking, three-seated couch in the corner. There are three larger tables and four high tops – plenty of room to accommodate any number of players in your group.

There is a TV tucked in the right and left corners in the back of the room on the opposite side of the bar.

The clubhouse has a full kitchen with a breakfast (served daily until 11:30 a.m.) and lunch menu. Coffee and assorted juices accompany bagels, English muffins and croissants. Breakfast sandwiches are available as well.

"The Bogey," comprised of three eggs, three slices of bacon, toast and your choice of juice or coffee and "The Eagle" Omelet featuring three eggs, cheddar, onions and ham or bacon along with toast and your choice of juice or coffee are aptly named entrees. Fan favorites like hamburgers, hot dogs and grilled cheese sandwiches highlight the lunch options. Chicken tenders, salads and appetizers can feed any hunger player.

Pizza and panini's are coming soon says the menu.

Today the bar has six beers on draft with an array of liquor for mixed drinks.

Soda, Gatorade and water is available for the sober crowd. Coffee is also an option before or after hitting the links.

"Can I get you anything?" asks the woman behind the counter. Water for me please as I'm on assignment.

"The biggest clubhouse crowds are midweek when golf leagues are playing," she says.

Johnson Golf Management, Inc. recently renovated the mens and ladies rooms at the clubhouse at their own expense.

"They retiled everything and spent thousands of dollars of their own money on that project for the people who play up there," Cushing said.

Johnson Golf operates the town-owned course, and has a contract with the town for seven years.

The company is responsible for day-to-day operations of the course. If there is a need for a new irrigation system or a new clubhouse then the town would be responsible for such items.



The clubhouse (top) and putting greens are fan favorites at North Hill.

Photos by Aaron Carr

The Duxbury Recreation Department provides oversight to make sure that the management company, in this case Johnson Golf, is successfully carrying out the expectations of the contract that it signed with the town (i.e. mowing, fertilizing, weeding, etc.).

“They are aggressive about course management. They do a good job,” Cushing said. “They’re excited to be back. We’ll work with them to make sure that we’re good stewards for that facility and for that area.”